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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

25537

7590

12/07/2009

VERIZON
PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP
1320 North Court House Road
9th Floor
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909

EXAMINER

DENG, ANNA CHEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2191

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,068	03/11/2004	Yih-Feng Hwang	ASH-03-010	4377
TITLE OF INVENTION: INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/08/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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25537 7590 12/07/2009
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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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10/797,068	03/11/2004	Yih-Feng Hwang	ASH-03-010	4377

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	03/08/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
DENG, ANNA CHEN	2191	717-120000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
 Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

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VERIZON PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1320 North Court House Road 9th Floor ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909				
			EXAMINER DENG, ANNA CHEN	
			ART UNIT 2191	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 12/07/2009				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 740 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 740 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/797,068

Applicant(s)

HWANG, YIH-FENG

Examiner

ANNA DENG

Art Unit

2191

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/17/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 6-10, 14-23, 27, and 28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Anna Deng/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2191

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to amendment filed on 9/17/2009.
2. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 to claims 9-16, and 22-28 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.
3. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. (USPN 6910,028 B2), in view of applicant submitted IDS, Hwang et al. et al. "Detecting Faults In Chained-Inference Rules In Information Distribution Systems" (Summer, 1997) to claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-25, and 27-28 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.
4. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. (USPN 6910,028 B2), in view of applicant submitted IDS, Hwang et al. et al. "Detecting Faults In Chained-Inference Rules In Information Distribution Systems" (Summer, 1997), further in view of Bahrami, (USPUB 2004/0078777 A1) to claims 5, 13, and 26 is withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.
5. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, and 22 have been amended (see Examiner's Amendment below).
6. Claims 3-5, 11-13, and 24-26 have been canceled (see Examiner's Amendment below).
7. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-23, and 27-28 are pending.
8. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-23, and 27-28 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

9. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Bennin (Reg. No. 60,692) on 11/30/2009 to place the application in condition of allowance.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 3-5, 11-13, and 24-26 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, and 22 have been amended as following:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of integrating software systems, the method comprising:

identifying, by a processor of a the computer, the software systems that are to be integrated;

identifying, by ~~the~~ a processor of the computer, a scope of the integration based on a multi-level top-down approach, where the multi-level top-down approach includes:

a first level that includes the software systems,

a second level that includes business processes of the software systems,

a third level that includes business rules that are defined as transitions in the business processes,

a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and

a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions;

identifying, by the processor of the computer, ~~the~~ business processes, associated with the software ~~system~~ systems, that are to be integrated;

identifying, by the processor of the computer, ~~the~~ business rules that are defined for each of the business processes that are to be integrated;

identifying, by the processor of the computer, faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and

modifying, by the processor of the computer, the business rules based on the identified faults.

2. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, where identifying faults in the business rules includes:

representing the business rules using a transition-directed graph (TDG) representation.

3.-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1[[4]], further including:

comparing the business processes to locate similar business processes that are to be integrated.

7. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, where identifying the scope of the integration is performed on software systems from multiple merging entities.

8. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, where the identified faults include faults of at least one of inconsistency, contradiction, circularity, subsumption, redundancy, or incompleteness.

9. (currently amended) A computer-implemented system for integrating information distribution systems, the computer-implemented system comprising:
a physical memory device to store instructions; and
a processor to execute the instructions to implement:

means for identifying the information distribution systems that are to be integrated;

means for assisting a user to identify a scope of the integration using a multi-level top-down approach, the identified scope including a set of business processes that are to be integrated and a set of business rules that define the business processes, where the multi-level top-down approach includes:

a first level that includes software systems,

a second level that includes the business processes, which define the software systems,

a third level that includes the business rules defined as transitions in the business processes,

a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and

a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions; and

means for identifying faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and

means for modifying the business rules based on the identified faults.

10. (previously presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 9, where the fault detection component is further configured to represent the business rules using a transition-directed graph (TDG) representation.

11.-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The computer-implemented system of claim 9[[12]], where the means for assisting compares the business processes to locate similar business processes that are to be integrated.

15. (previously presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 9, where the scope of the integration is defined for software systems from multiple merging entities.

16. (previously presented) The computer-implemented system of claim 9, where the identified faults include faults of at least one of inconsistency, contradiction, circularity, subsumption, redundancy, or incompleteness.

17. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method of integrating information distribution systems of merging entities, the method comprising:

identifying, by a processor of a the computer, ~~top-level software~~ a scope of the information distribution systems that are to be integrated based on a multi-level top-down approach including:
a first level that includes software systems.

a second level that includes business processes, which define the software systems,

a third level that includes business rules defined as transitions in the business processes,

a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and

a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions;

identifying, by the processor of the computer, the business processes in the ~~top-~~ level-software systems;

comparing, by the processor of the computer, the identified business processes to determine business processes that are related as candidates for integration;

identifying, by the processor of the computer, the business rules that define the identified business processes; ~~and~~

identifying, by the processor of the computer, faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and
modifying, by the processor of the computer, the business rules based on the identified faults.

18. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, further comprising:

modifying the business rules based on the identified faults.

19. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, where comparing the identified business processes includes finding pairs of business processes that perform similar functions.

20. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, where the identified faults include faults of at least one of inconsistency, contradiction, circularity, subsumption, redundancy, or incompleteness.

21. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 17, where identifying faults in the business rules further includes:
representing the business rules using a transition-directed graph (TDG)
representation.

22. (currently amended) A physical computer-readable memory device containing instructions for execution by one or more processors, the physical computer-readable memory device including:

instructions for assisting a user to identify a scope of an integration of information distribution systems by using a multi-level top-down approach, the identified scope including a set of business processes that are to be integrated and a set of business rules that define the business processes, where the multi-level top-down approach includes:

a first level that includes software systems,

a second level that includes the business processes, which define the software systems,

a third level that includes the business rules defined as transitions in the business processes,

a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and

a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions; and

instructions for identifying faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and
instructions for modifying the business rules based on the identified faults.

23. (previously presented) The physical computer-readable memory device of claim 22, where the instructions for identifying faults represent the business rules using a transition-directed graph (TDG) representation.

24.-27. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The physical computer-readable memory device of claim 22, where the scope of the integration is defined for information distribution systems from multiple merging entities.

28. (previously presented) The physical computer-readable memory device of claim 22, where the identified faults include faults of at least one of inconsistency, contradiction, circularity, subsumption, or incompleteness.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fail to teach, in combination with the other claimed limitations, identifying a scope of the integration based on a multi-level top-down approach, where the multi-level top-down approach includes: a first level that includes the software systems, a second level that includes business processes of the software systems, a third level that includes business rules that are defined as transitions in the business processes, a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions; identifying the business processes associated with the software systems that are to be integrated; identifying the business rules that are defined for each of the business processes that are to be integrated; identifying faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and modifying the business rules based on the identified faults as recites in independent claim 1, and further fails to teach similarly worded limitations in independent claims 9, 17, and 22.

The closes cited prior arts, the combination of Chan et al. (USPN 6910,028 B2), Hwang et al. et al. "Detecting Faults In Chained-Inference Rules In Information Distribution Systems" (Summer, 1997), and Bahrami, (USPUB 2004/0078777 A1) teaches a method of integrating software systems. However, the combination of Chan et al., Hwang et al., and Bahrami fails to teach identifying a scope of the integration based on a multi-level top-down approach, where the multi-level top-down approach includes: a first level that includes the software systems, a second level that includes business processes of the software systems, a third level that includes business rules that are defined as transitions in the business processes, a fourth level that includes interface functions that define communications between the business rules, and a fifth level that includes data used by the business rules and the interface functions; identifying the business processes associated with the software systems that are to be integrated; identifying the business rules that are defined for each of the business processes that are to be integrated; identifying faults in the business rules by applying generic depth-first search (DFS)-based techniques to the business rules; and modifying the business rules based on the identified faults as recites in independent claim 1, and further fails to teach similarly worded limitations in independent claims 9, 17, and 22, as pointed out in applicant's Remarks, pages 11-12.

These claimed limitations are not present in the prior art of record and would not have been obvious, thus all pending claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-23, and 27-28 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anna Deng whose telephone number is 571-272-5989. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Fridays 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Anna Deng/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2191

11/26/2009